

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 20 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 5-12 and 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,278,671 issued to Gotoh et al. Claims 3, 4, and 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,278,671 issued to Gotoh et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and request reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

Applicants agree that Gotoh discloses separate layers for recording information as suggested by the Examiner's response to arguments because layers 802 and 825 in Figure 6 are for a two-layer laminated disk (11:39-43). However, nothing in Gotoh teaches, discloses or suggests that both layers of a laminated disk stored embedded information as recited by Applicants' claims. For example, Claim 11 recites that the optical drive is initiated by reading first and second sets of information embedded at first and second layers at a predetermined radius. Further, Gotoh fails to teach, disclose or suggest the many dependent claims that further define how the two sets of information are embedded, such as aligning the information over only part of the optical medium (Claim 12), using ink markings (Claim 15) or using modulation coding to output a mixed signal (Claim 16). As a further example, Gotoh fails to teach, disclose or suggest identification information read from first and second aligned embedded information areas as recited by Claim 17. Merely because Gotoh discloses two-layer laminated disks does not mean that Gotoh has information aligned as recited by Applicants' claims. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of Claims 1-20 and issue the present application without further delay.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

The Commissioner is authorized to deduct any fees which may be necessary and to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502264.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically submitted to the COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS via EFS on June 27, 2007.

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Respectfully submitted,

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